

Amendments to the Claims:

The following claims will replace all prior versions of the claims in this application (in the unlikely event that no claims follow herein, the previously pending claims will remain):

1. (Currently Amended) A dispersion comprising particles of metal oxide dispersed in a siloxane fluid and a dispersing agent ~~which is comprising a mixture of polysiloxane molecules~~ wherein (i) the mixture of polysiloxane molecules comprises ~~in the range an average of~~ from 0.1 to 3 carboxyl groups per molecule, and (ii) the ratio of non-carboxyl group containing monomer units to carboxyl group containing monomer units in the polysiloxane molecules is in the range from 40 to 150:1.
2. (Currently Amended) A dispersion according to claim 1 wherein the mixture of polysiloxane molecules has a viscosity in the range from 0.2 to 10 Pa. s.
3. (Currently Amended) A dispersion according to claim 1 wherein the mixture of polysiloxane molecules has a molecular weight number average ~~(number average)~~ in the range from 4,000 to 15,000.
4. (Currently Amended) A dispersion according to claim 1 wherein the dispersion comprises greater than 30%, ~~more preferably greater than 40%, and particularly greater than 50%~~ by weight of particles of metal oxide.
5. (Currently Amended) A dispersion according to claim 1 wherein the mixture of polysiloxane molecules comprises 0.8 to 2.5 carboxyl groups per molecule.
6. (Currently Amended) A dispersion according to claim 1 wherein the mixture of polysiloxane molecules comprises in the range from 30 to 200 non-carboxyl group containing monomer units.
7. (Currently Amended) A dispersion according to claim 1 wherein the carboxyl group is attached laterally, ~~preferably only laterally~~, to the polysiloxane chain.

8. (Previously Presented) A dispersion according to claim 1 wherein the metal oxide particles are hydrophobic.
9. (Previously Presented) A dispersion according to claim 1 wherein the siloxane fluid dispersing medium is a cyclic oligomeric dialkylsiloxane, a linear dimethyl-siloxane oligomer and/or polymer, and/or phenyltris(trimethylsiloxy)silane.
10. (Withdrawn and Currently Amended) A method of preparing a dispersion of metal oxide which comprises milling with a particulate grinding medium particles of metal oxide in a siloxane fluid in the presence of a dispersing agent ~~agent which is comprising a mixture of polysiloxane molecules wherein~~ (i) the mixture of polysiloxane molecules comprises in the range an average of from 0.1 to 3 carboxyl groups per molecule, and (ii) the ratio of non-carboxyl group containing monomer units to carboxyl group containing monomer units in the polysiloxane molecules is in the range from 40 to 150:1.
11. (Currently Amended) A sunscreen composition comprising particles of metal oxide, a siloxane fluid, and a mixture of polysiloxane molecules comprising (i) in the range from 0.1 to 3 carboxyl groups per molecule, and (ii) non-carboxyl group containing monomer units to carboxyl group containing monomer units at a ratio in the range from 40 to 150:1.
12. (Cancelled).
13. (New) The dispersion of claim 1, wherein the particles of metal oxide have an average primary particle size of less than 200 nm.
14. (New) The dispersion of claim 13, wherein the particles of metal oxide have an average primary particle size of 5 to 150 nm.

15. (New) The dispersion of claim 14, wherein particles of metal oxide have an extinction coefficient for light in the visible wavelengths of not greater than 10 litres per gram per cm.
16. (New) The dispersion of claim 15, wherein metal oxide is titanium dioxide.
17. (New) The dispersion of claim 15, wherein metal oxide is zinc oxide.
18. (New) The dispersion of claim 1, wherein said dispersion consists of metal oxide, siloxane fluid, and dispersing agent.
19. (New) The dispersion of claim 1, wherein the dispersing agent is present in the range of 1 to 60% by weight.
20. (New) The sunscreen composition of claim 11, wherein the particles of metal oxide have an average primary particle size of less than 200 nm.
21. (New) The sunscreen composition of claim 11, wherein the dispersing agent is present in the range of 1 to 60% by weight.